

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0376

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: CHILE: PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH RELEASE OF DETAINEES

1. SUMMARY: WHILE GOC NOW GEARING UP TO RELEASE AND EXPEL NUMBER OF DETAINEES, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DIPLOMATS ARE DISINCLINED TO RECEIVE THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. AT DINNER SEPT 20, VISITING DANISH AMBASSADOR MRS. NONNY WRIGHT (RESIDENT BUENOS AIRES) AND DANISH CHARGE IN SANTIAGO OLE PHILIPSON INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DIPLOMATIC GROUP IN SANTIAGO HAD HELD MEETING THAT DAY ON FRENCH INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS SITUATION WHICH WOULD ARISE SHOULD CHILE BEGIN MASSIVE RELEASE OF DEAINES AND SEEK TO EXPEL THEM FROM COUNTRY. PARTICIPANTS HAD NO FIRM INFORMATION REGARDING NUMBER TO BE FREED OR TIMING, WITH ESTIMATES RUNNING FROM 500 TO 6,000. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT IF HIGHER RANGE WERE ACCURATE, AND IF FAMILIES AS WELL AS DETAINEES HAD TO BE PLACED, PROBLEM COULD INVOLVE SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF 20,000 INDIVIDUALS.

3. MEETING DISCLOSED GENERAL RELUCTANCE TO RECEIVE ANY MORE DETAINEES FROM CHILE. SCANDINAVIANS REPORTED
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THAT SWEDEN NOW HAD ABOUT 900 CHILEANS, DANES ABOUT 500, NORWAY VERY FEW, AND THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAD ADOPTED A

COMMON POSITION OF NOT RECEIVING ANY MORE, BASICALLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. DUTCH EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THEY MIGHT SOON BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE HUNDREDS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE FROM SURINAM. MEETING AGREED THAT EC MISSIONS SHOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO RECEPTION OF DETAINEES; THE GENERAL FEELING ON PART OF ALL CONCERNED WAS AGAINST ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL CHILEANS.

4. MEETING RECOGNIZED THAT GOC WAS RELYING ON INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) TO DISPOSE OF EVICTED DETAINEES. LOCAL IRC, HOWEVER, WAS TAKING POSITION THAT AT THIS STAGE ITS JOB WAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER GENERAL PINOCHET'S OFFER OF DETAINEE RELEASE AGAINST CORRESPONDING RELEASES BY CUBANS AND RUSSIANS HAD ANY PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS. BECAUSE MANY CHILEANS WOULD NOT VOLUNTARILY LEAVE THE COUNTRY, IRC WOULD IN ANY EVENT HAVE TO EXAMINE EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY BEFORE ASSISTING IN DEPARTURE. ICEM WAS DESCRIBED AS RELUCTANT TO GET INVOLVED IN FURTHER MOVEMENT PROBLEMS, WHILE LOCAL OFFICE OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES POINTED OUT ONCE AGAIN CHILEANS WITHIN CHILE WERE NOT TECHNICALLY REFUGEES AND THEREFORE DID NOT FALL WITHIN UNHCR MANDATE.

5. MEANWHILE, NATIONAL REFUGEE COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SAMUEL NALEGACH HAS STATED THAT PURSUANT TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S SEPT 11 STATEMENT, RELEASE OF GROUPS OF DETAINEES WOULD BEGIN THIS WEEK, WITH A WEEKLY AVERAGE OF 60 TO 70 PERSONS. NALEGACH INDICATED ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND WEST GERMANY WERE POSSIBLE COUNTRIES OF REFUGE.

6. COMMENT: CLEARLY, IT CANNOT BE ASSUMED THAT RESETTLEMENT OF DETAINEES WILL TAKE PLACE EASILY OR AUTOMATICALLY. WHEN THIS BECOMES EVIDENT TO GOC, LATTER MIGHT DECIDE TO ALLOW SMALLER FRY TO REMAIN IN COUNTRY. AS POSSIBLY RELEVANT IN THIS REGARD, SANTIAGO PAPERS SEPT 23 CARRY EFE PRESS AGENCY REPORT THAT 270 DETAINEES
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NOW IN DETENTION CAMPS ARE BEING RELEASED WITH PERMISSION TO REMAIN WITHIN COUNTRY IF THEY DESIRE. ARTICLE ALSO IMPLIES THAT RELEASE OF EX-ALLENDE GOVERNMENT HIERARCHS IS IMMINENT, AND OTHER ARTICLES INDICATE THAT APPEAL TO CIVIL COURTS ON BEHALF OF EX-ALLENDE FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA RE CHARGES OF MISUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS WILL BE DECIDED IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.
POPPER

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